THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) Part payment in respect of Anticipated Endowment Assurance only is made by the concerned post office on the basis of sanction issued by the O/o Chief Postmaster General.

(b) The Postmaster of paying post office is personally responsible to ensure that part payment against Anticipated Endowment Assurance is made to the correct policy holder. The post office can deny part payment if satisfactory evidence about,the identity of the payee is not established.

(c) Only one complaint was received in Sarojini Nagar Post Office during the month of Nov '96 in respect of Anticipated Endowment Assurance Policy No. DL—AEA—2573—C sanctioned on 13.11.96 by the Chief Postmaster General, Delhi Circle, from Sh. .Ashok Kumar Sharma who was denied first survival benefit by the Sarojini Nagar Post Office as he could not produce witnesses before effecting payment on being asked to do so.

(d) No complaint was received directly in the CPMG Office. However a copy of the complaint dt. 29.11.96 from Shri A.K. Sharma mentioned in the reply to item (c) above was obtained from Senior Postmaster Sarojini Nagar HO on 12.12.96.

(e) Senior Postmaster, Sarojini Nagar HPO has been directed by the Chief Postmaster General, Delhi Circle to arrange payment of survival benefit of Anticipated Endowment Assurance after completing the required formalities.

Mysterious Deaths of BSF Constables

2755. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether two constables belonging 50 BN of BSF found dead in 1994 in mysterious circumstances;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any enquiry was done and any case registered; and

(d) if so, the agency which made the investigation and details of the enquiry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) to (d) Only one Constable by name Sajimon A.C. of 50 Bn. was found dead on 18th April, 1994. A Court of Inquiry was conducted as per the BSF Act and Rules to enquire into the circumstances leading to the death of Constable Sajimon. The matter was also investigated by civil police. Both the Court of Inquiry and civil police investigations have concluded that it was a case of suicide.

Increase in the Minimum Support Price for Cotton

2756. DR. JAGANNATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES 'be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Minimum Support Price for cotton are being increased every year but the market price remains for above them and the monopoly procurement agencies have rarely had to purchase cotton from growers;

(b) if so, the relevances of Minimum Support Price; and

(c) the steps Government propose to check the increase of cotton price in the market.

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L, JALAPPA): (a) to (c) The market prices of cotton are determined by demand and supply.

Minimum Support Price (MSP) has been increased over the years. Prices of cotton tend to exhibit variations from year to year, as well as in the course of a particular season. In order to guard against any eventuality of price falling below the MSP levels, support prices are fixed and announced by Government every year to protect the interests of the farmers.

The Cotton Corporation of India Ltd. (CCI) is the designated agency to conduct MSP operations. The CCI was last required to conduct these operations in 1985-86 and, partly, in 1986-87.

Delay in Transporting Cargo from Inland Container Depot, Tugiakabad

2757. SHRI BHAGBAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a lot of delay in transporting cargo to sea ports from the Inland Container Depot (ICD) at Tugiakabad;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the average transit time from ICD, Tugiakabad to key sea ports; and

(d) the steps taken to avoid such delay?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The average transit from ICD, Tugiakabad to the Key Sea Ports *viz.* Bombay Port and Jawaharlal Nehru Port during November, 1996 has been about 93 hrs. and 117 hrs. respectively. The average transit time from ICD, Tugiakabad to Madras Port was 167 hrs. in September, 1996. Due to cyclonic weather and unprecedented rains in the month of October and November, 1996, the train services to Madras Port were seriously disrupted.

(d) Attempts have been made by CONCOR and Indian Railways to run trains on scheduled paths. Locomotive deployment has been rationalised. Train examination systems have been streamlined. There is continuous monitoring of these trains by both CONCOR & Indian Railways.

Setting up cavitations Tunnel at the Naval science and technology Laboratory

2758. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Cavitation Tunnel at the Naval Science and Technology Laboratory in Visakhapatnam has been set up;

(b) if so, the speciality of the proposed hydrodynamie test facility; and

(c) the target for completion of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) No, Sir, However, the Government have already accorded sanction for setting up such a facility at the Naval Science and Technological Laboratory, Visakhapatnam.

(b) The Cavitation Tunnel is a part of marine hydro-dynamic test facility and will be used for generating data to predict hydrodynamic characteristics of marine platforms for validation of design.

(c) Setting up of the Cavitation Tunnel facility is planned to be completed by November 1999.

Allotment of Shops in Shaheed Bhagat Singh Place

2759. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received representation from public, FPS owners and the Department of Food and Civil Supplies for allotment of Ground Floor shops in the Shaheed Bhagat Singh Place, Baird Lane, New Delhi;

(b) whether public at large are facing great difficulties in getting their food articles from FPSs which are located at the upper storeys;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to reconsider its decision and allot Ground Floor shops to FPS; and

(d) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) and (b) The New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) has reported that a request